WMCC Partners with Oaklawn and Sturgis Hospitals

Cancer and hematology patients in Southwest Michigan have greater access to a full spectrum of care services closer to home, thanks to a new partnership between West Michigan Cancer Center & Institute for Blood Disorders (WMCC) and two area hospitals.

WMCC has entered into formal affiliation agreements with Oaklawn Hospital in Marshall and Sturgis Hospital in Sturgis. These latest partnerships bring to six the number of hospitals collaborating with WMCC to provide cancer and hematology care services. WMCC also operates affiliate clinics in Allegan, Dowagiac, South Haven and Three Rivers.

“Patients now have access to unsurpassed cancer and hematology care in their hometown, so they can avoid traveling to Kalamazoo for their treatment,” said Joseph Mirro, MD, CEO/CMO of West Michigan Cancer Center & Institute for Blood Disorders.

WMCC’s new Sturgis campus is based at the hospital at 916 Myrtle Avenue. Patient care is provided by Dustin Bivins, DO, WMCC hematologist & medical oncologist.

“We’re very pleased to collaborate with the West Michigan Cancer Center & Institute for Blood Disorders,” said Rob LaBarge, Sturgis Hospital President and CEO. “The fine reputation of the WMCC and its medical staff is well known. Combining their expertise with our compassionate staff will ensure our patients will receive the very best of care.”

WMCC’s Oaklawn Campus opened on July 20th with care provided by Muhammad Rafi, MD, WMCC hematologist & medical oncologist. The clinic is based in the office of Oaklawn Oncology and Hematology in the Wright Medical Building at 215 E. Mansion St. in Marshall.

“This new affiliation makes it possible for Oaklawn to provide the best possible access to one of the area’s most respected and experienced treatment centers,” said Mark Montross, Executive Director of the Oaklawn Medical Group. “We’ve always been impressed by the expertise and quality of care provided by WMCC, as it offers a multidisciplinary and integrated approach in treating patients,” Montross added.

The clinics provide consults for hematology and medical oncology patients, chemotherapy, laboratory and supportive services. In additional, patients have expanded access to clinical trials as well as a broad range of vital services and clinical expertise.

“We thank the dedicated staffs of Oaklawn and Sturgis Hospitals for their excellent work to provide state-of-the-art cancer care in Calhoun and St. Joseph Counties,” Dr. Mirro said.
WMCC Welcomes New Providers

DUSTIN BIVINS, DO, is a hematologist and medical oncologist. Dr. Bivins earned his medical degree from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine in Downers Grove, IL. He completed his residency at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine/Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine and a hematology and oncology fellowship at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, where he was Chief Fellow. Dr. Bivins is board certified in internal medicine and board eligible in hematology and medical oncology.

BENJAMIN MIZE, MD, joins our gynecologic oncology team. Dr. Mize earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical School in Houston. He completed his residency at the University of Utah Hospitals & Clinics in Salt Lake City and a fellowship in gynecologic oncology at SUNY Downtown Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. Dr. Mize is board eligible in obstetrics and gynecology and in gynecologic oncology.

HEMASRI TOKALA, MD, is a hematologist and medical oncologist. Dr. Tokala earned her medical degree from Osmania Medical College in Hyderabad, India. She completed her residency at Michigan State University/Sparrow Hospital in East Lansing and a hematology and oncology fellowship at the Michigan State University Breslin Cancer Center. Dr. Tokala is board certified in internal medicine and board eligible in hematology and medical oncology.

UPCOMING WELLNESS DATES

Available at no charge to patients newly-diagnosed, in treatment and up to three years’ post-treatment.
Check wmcc.org for specific dates and times.

Survivorcise
Date: TBA
on Tuesdays & Thursdays
Time: 1:00 – 2:00 pm
Place: YMCA Portage
2900 W. Centre Ave.
Portage
Register: 269-373-7434 or email survivorcise@wmcc.org

Healing Yoga
Date: Every Monday – Drop In
Time: 5:00 – 6:15 pm
Place: WMCC 3rd Floor Multi Purpose Room
Information: 269-373-0109 or email nutrition@wmcc.org

Livestrong at the Y
When: Begins August 2016
on Mondays & Wednesdays
6:00 – 7:15 pm or
Begins September 2016
on Tuesdays & Thursdays
10:00 – 11:00 am
Place: YMCA
2900 W. Centre Ave.
Portage
Register: email Trish Harrison at taharr@kzooymca.org

Look Good Feel Better
select one session
Date: Monday, August 22
Monday, September 26
Monday, October 24
Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Place: Bronson Advanced Radiology Services
524 South Park St
Kalamazoo
Register: 800-227-2345
(American Cancer Society)

Tai Chi
Date: Every Tuesday
Time: 5:30 – 6:30 pm
Place: WMCC 3rd Floor Lobby Area
Register: 269-373-0109 or email nutrition@wmcc.org
By Samantha Cabala, RD
WMCC Registered Dietitian

Beginning with this issue, we are highlighting ‘super foods’ that carry significant health benefits. We will explain why they are so good for you, ways you can enjoy them and we’ll share a recipe to try at home!

AVOCADOS

Season: February-August

Health Benefits:
Loaded with heart-healthy fats; excellent source of fiber and a number of vitamins and minerals; avocados contain more potassium than bananas; shown to reduce total cholesterol.

How to Eat:
As guacamole, blended into a smoothie for a creamier, smoother texture, added to a salad, sandwich, taco, or burger, spread on a piece of toast with salt & pepper.

Black Bean and Avocado Salad

2 jalapenos
1 clove garlic
1/2 medium onion
1 can black beans
2 scallions
2 tbsp. lime juice
1 tbsp. olive oil
1 avocado
1/2 c. fresh cilantro
Salt and pepper to taste

- In a large bowl, combine the jalapenos, garlic, onion, salt and pepper.
- Add the beans, scallions, lime juice, and oil, and toss to combine. Fold in the avocado and cilantro.

BLUEBERRIES

Season: July-August

Health Benefits:
High antioxidant content; excellent source of vitamin C and dietary fiber, which has been shown to lower the risk of colorectal, esophageal, and lung cancer.

How to Eat:
Raw and/or frozen, blended into a smoothie, on cereal/oatmeal/yogurt, added to a salad, mixed into pancake or muffin batter.

Blueberry Sorbet

4 cups fresh or thawed, frozen blueberries
6 oz. frozen apple juice concentrate

- In a blender, combine and process blueberries and apple juice concentrate.
- Whirl until liquefied.
- Pour into an 11 x 7 inch baking pan.
- Cover and freeze for about 2 hours.
- With a spoon, break mixture into pieces.
- Blend again, until smooth, but not completely melted.
- Spoon into a 9 x 5 inch loaf pan.
- Cover and freeze until firm.
- Serve within a few days.
Help Write a Story...

Each person who comes to the West Michigan Cancer Center & Institute for Blood Disorders (WMCC) has a story of how they learned of their illness, their treatment plan, and their hopes for recovery. No matter where you are in your story, WMCC is here for you. Just like we are here for Russ and Sally who shared their inspiring stories with us.

Like so many in our community Russ and Sally turned to WMCC during their time of need. WMCC is right here in Southwest Michigan—in Kalamazoo, in South Haven, in Allegan, in Dowagiac, in Three Rivers, in Marshall, and in Sturgis—providing the best cancer care close to home, pursuing innovative cancer research, and making sure all treatment and social services are available to everyone in need. Thanks to WMCC Russ and Sally are surviving and thriving.

Will you help make sure that WMCC can help all those battling cancer in our community?

Whether it is an exercise class designed especially for those who have had cancer, or social services help with mental health, housing, or family support, WMCC meets the need.

Your donation of $35, $50, $100 or $500 will directly help the more than 500 cancer patients that come to our center every day. Use the white envelope in this newsletter to send your donation to WMCC today.

Tell Us Your Story...

Every cancer patient, caregiver, and family member has a unique story to tell. You can share your story as a way to offer thanks to a West Michigan Cancer Center & Institute for Blood Disorders staff member, doctor, or volunteer. You can share your story so that your experience can impact recently diagnosed people, families of a cancer patient, or donors looking to support a worthy cause.

February 2014 was a significant month in my life, and in my families. I was diagnosed with Stage 3 ovarian cancer. With no noticeable symptoms that I was aware of at the time, it came as a complete surprise. Following major surgery performed by Anna Hoekstra, my chemo began. I received 3 different chemos, into my abdominal and chest port. What started as an absolute nightmare ended up being a blessing. After 6 months of chemo my cancer is gone. I’ve met many wonderful people at the WMCC, Dr. Hoekstra, the PA’s, their nurses, the chemo nurses, lab technicians and front desk staff.

Because of the wonderful care I’ve received, I’ve chosen to give back by being a volunteer at the WMCC.

I love this place.

Sally

Hey I’m Russ. I love being outdoors and enjoying all of these beautiful things on earth. I am now 30 years old. In January 2014, I was diagnosed with Stage 3 Testicular cancer and it had a huge impact on my life. I made a decision on the day I was diagnosed that I would be a cancer survivor. I started enjoying all the little things in life a lot more. After a total of 50 rounds of chemo and 2 surgeries, I find myself still here today. I am a firm believer that with a positive attitude and a healthy lifestyle we can all be cancer survivors when we start our journey. You have to be able to see yourself through this and back to being you again.

Much love,

Russ
Being a volunteer at the WMCC.

Front desk staff.

Wonderful people at the WMCC; Dr. Anna Hoekstra, my chemo began.

By Anna Hoekstra, my chemo began. I received 3 different chemos, into my abdominal and chest port.

My cancer is gone. I've met many families. I was diagnosed with Stage IIIB Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer.

February 2014 was a significant month in my life, and in my time, it came as a complete surprise.

Because of the wonderful care I've received, I've chosen to give back by volunteering at the WMCC.

You can share your story as a way to offer thanks to a West Michigan Cancer Center & Institute for Blood Disorders staff member, doctor, or volunteer.

You can share your story so that your experience can impact recently diagnosed patients.

Every cancer patient, caregiver, and family member has a unique story to tell.

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Mr. Wayne York

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Mrs. Sylvia Zajac

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Mrs. Bonnie Valkner

In Honor of Jahan Assadi
Ms. Mary Haller

In Honor of Sharon Bastian
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis L. Bastian

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Keith and Joyce Hartline

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Ms. Brenda A. Hahn

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Kathleen Kolb Bonham Family Foundation

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Ms. Judith Kepler

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Mr. and Mrs. Richard & SueAnn Coffinger

In Honor of Margarito Colegio
Mr. and Mrs. Margarito Colegio

In Honor of Carolyn Dembczynski
Ms. Jennifer Puvogel

North Shore Elementary

In Honor of Gary Gleason
Mr. and Mrs. David B. Redman

In Honor of Dr. Glen Heggie
Ms. Gwen R. Pook

In Honor of Dr. Anna Hokestra
Evelyn and Larry Knuth

In Honor of Ron Jurks
Ms. Bernice DeHaan

In Honor of Carleen Kooistra
Ms. Doris M. Burnham

In Honor of Ron Jurks
Ms. Bernice DeHaan

In Honor of Dr. Marcia Liepman
Mr. Timothy R. DeHaan

Chuck & Tucky McCarthy Elliott
Ron and Elaine Johns
Mrs. Kathryn A. Latchaw
Mrs. Karen McNulty

Jari and Mike Pulford
Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Shearer

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Ms. Barbara E. Scott

In Honor of Dr. Raymond Lord
Ms. Eloise Beardsley

In Memory of Cheryl Stanczak
Bob and Penny Ogrin

In Honor of Virginia Lynch
Kay Bach

In Honor of Daniel Miner
John and Pamela Cameron

In Honor of Dr. Jeffrey Radawski
Ms. Margaret Carlson

In Honor of Carol Rix
Mrs. Richard Quertermus
Bill and Pat Wagner

In Honor of Karis and Mark Robbins
Nina Consolatti

In Honor of Gertrude Rohr
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Rohr

In Honor of Selma Schuring
William and Karen Allen

In Honor of Tim Strombeck
Sally and Carl McCune

In Honor of Vicky Verburg
Ms. Kathleen J. Hobbs

In Honor of Rev. Pat Weatherwax
Sally and Carl McCune

In Celebration the Wedding of
Patrick and Tammy Lacey
Anonymous
Lynn E. Brand
Daryl and Debra DeVries
Ms. Sharon French
Ramze and Allison Idriess
Tim and Stephanie Knight
Ms. Marie P. Knight
Tom and Chris Lewis
John and Margaret Mahoney
Rick and Laura Penner
Mr. David Persons
Jerry and Sandra Watson
Meghan and Scott Wilson
Ms. Barb Phillips
Tom and Shelly Sanford

In Celebration of the Wedding
of Maria Ward & Tracy Wright
Mr. Craig Hoffman
David and Elizabeth Jolly

In Celebration of the WMCC Staff
Drs. Marcia & Michael Liepman
West Michigan Cancer Center & Institute for Blood Disorders has been QOPI-certified since March of 2010.

“This was a terrific team effort and could not have been done without the remarkable dedication and commitment of our entire staff, particularly our nurses, pharmacists, social workers, medical assistants and physicians,” said Bridget VandenBussche, WMCC Quality & Risk Manager.

“As oncologists, our goal is to provide the highest levels of care and life quality for our patients,” said Allen S. Lichter, MD, ASCO Chief Executive Officer. “ASCO’s quality programs are designed by leaders in the profession, and give practices the ability to continuously improve the quality of care they provide. This culture of excellence will be especially important as we enter the era of personalized medicine.”

To become certified, practices have to submit to an evaluation of their entire practice and documentation standards. The QCP staff and steering group members then verify through on-site inspection that the evaluation and documents are correct and that the practices met core standards in all areas of treatment, including:

- Treatment planning
- Staff training and education
- Chemotherapy orders and drug preparation
- Patient consent and education
- Safe chemotherapy administration
- Monitoring and assessment of patient well-being

WMCC’s QOPI certification runs through June 15, 2019.

**CALL YOUR NURSE & SCHEDULER DIRECTLY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical Oncology</th>
<th>Physician</th>
<th>Nurse Liaison</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Scheduler/MA</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Bailey</td>
<td>Tabitha P.</td>
<td>269-384-8671</td>
<td>Heidi D.</td>
<td>269-373-0122</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Bivins</td>
<td>Med Staff</td>
<td>269-585-6711</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Chandana</td>
<td>Cindy K.</td>
<td>269-373-7496</td>
<td>Andrea B.</td>
<td>269-373-7499</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Kaluza</td>
<td>Snezana K.</td>
<td>269-373-0147</td>
<td>Beckie B.</td>
<td>269-384-8698</td>
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<td>Dr. Hameed</td>
<td>Erica P.</td>
<td>269-384-8604</td>
<td>Maegan J.</td>
<td>269-384-8665</td>
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<td>Dr. Nagpal</td>
<td>Robin K.</td>
<td>269-373-7467</td>
<td>Charity C.</td>
<td>269-384-8653</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Omaira</td>
<td>Anne P.</td>
<td>269-373-7469</td>
<td>Chris P.</td>
<td>269-384-8692</td>
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<td>Dr. Park</td>
<td>Nancy W.</td>
<td>269-384-8644</td>
<td>Jody T.</td>
<td>269-384-8662</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Rafi</td>
<td>Staff RN</td>
<td>269-384-8636</td>
<td>Mike S.</td>
<td>269-384-8681</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Tokala</td>
<td>Med Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Grossheim</td>
<td>Kyle P.</td>
<td>269-373-7426</td>
<td>Jill S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Mislmani</td>
<td>Beth S.</td>
<td>269-384-8685</td>
<td>Jill S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Radawski</td>
<td>Nick M.</td>
<td>269-384-8616</td>
<td>Jill S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Schroyer</td>
<td>Pam R.</td>
<td>269-373-7444</td>
<td>Jill S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Hoekstra</td>
<td>Grace C.</td>
<td>269-373-7466</td>
<td>Kathleen C.</td>
<td>269-384-8609</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Mize</td>
<td>Sarah T.</td>
<td>269-384-8637</td>
<td>Heidi R.</td>
<td>269-384-8669</td>
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<th>Nurse Liaison</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Liepman</td>
<td>Judy N.</td>
<td>269-384-8688</td>
<td>Cindee M.</td>
<td>269-373-7461</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Munene</td>
<td>Eleanor B.</td>
<td>269-384-8663</td>
<td>Heidi R.</td>
<td>269-384-8669</td>
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<th>Hemophilia Clinic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Park</td>
<td>Jennifer L.</td>
<td>269-373-0106</td>
<td>Jody T.</td>
<td>269-384-8662</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nancy I.</td>
<td>269-373-7479</td>
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**Additional Support**

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<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tr>
<td>Billing</td>
<td>269-585-6713</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dietitian</td>
<td>269-382-2500</td>
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<td>Infusion Scheduling</td>
<td>269-585-6712</td>
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<td>Medical Records</td>
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<td>Phone Triage Line</td>
<td>269-585-6711</td>
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<td>Social Work</td>
<td>269-382-2500</td>
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<td>Test Results &amp; Prescription Refill Line</td>
<td>269-585-6710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Services</td>
<td>269-373-7434</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For urgent needs, call the Phone Triage Line at 269-585-6711
VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART of WMCC

When they arrive for their appointment, you are there with a smile to greet them. When they sit down and anxiously wait for their name to be called, you provide soft piano music to ease their worries. Or perhaps, lead your therapy dog to their side to comfort them. When they have waited awhile and become hungry or thirsty, you provide warm hospitality with a cart full of snacks and coffee. When the day has become particularly difficult, you offer your hand in support or a hug to let them know you care.

You are a volunteer at

West Michigan Cancer Center & INSTITUTE FOR BLOOD DISORDERS
A Borgess Bronson Collaboration

You are invaluable.
Thank you for all that you do.

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Bobbie Fry
Evelyn Greathouse
Bill Kemp
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John Carroll
Nancy DeVries
Mary Ann
Grohowski
Deanna Laplante
Alan Sarver
Lorna Stagg
Sandy Uridge

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Joyce McDowell
William O’Brien
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